

Risca Primary School

Spring Term Newsletter No 10

Thursday 11th February 2021



Dear Mums and Dads,

We are now beginning to finalise our plans for the return of Foundation Phase pupils to school. We received Welsh Government guidance yesterday and we are clarifying a few outstanding issues as we draw up our plans.

I am sure that you will be aware that the return of Foundation Phase pupils is the start of a phased approach to the reopening of school and we want to ensure that the transition back to school for pupils (and parents) is smooth.

As well as welcoming back our current pupils we are also about to welcome some new Rising 3 pupils into our school community. If you are a parent of a Rising 3 pupil who is due to start our Nursery we will be inviting you into an initial meeting in the first week back in preparation for starting school with us.

In accordance with guidelines we will be phasing our children back into school. Don't forget that we will continue to host hub provision for all pupils of key workers, as we phase our Foundation Phase children back into school.

For the foreseeable future we will continue to set blended learning tasks for our Key Stage 2 pupils.

Phased Return Plans for Foundation Phase Pupils.

<u>Monday 22nd Feb</u>	Hub is open to children of critical workers - (children must be pre-registered) Blended learning set for all Foundation Phase pupils.
<u>Tuesday 23rd Feb</u>	Hub is open to children of critical workers - (children must be pre-registered) Rising 3 parent teacher meetings (Details to follow) Blended learning set for all Foundation Phase pupils.
<u>Wednesday 24th Feb</u>	Hub is open to children of critical workers - (children must be pre-registered). Nursery and Reception pupils to attend school Blended learning set for Year 1/2 pupils.

<u>Thursday 25th Feb</u>	All Foundation Phase pupils to attend school.
<u>Friday 26th Feb</u>	All Foundation phase pupils to attend school.
<u>Week beginning 1st March</u>	Rising 3 pupils start school this week. Please await a confirmation of a start date.

School Uniform

As we are now beginning to return to some sort of normality in school, we would now kindly ask that all children wear school uniform. You will be aware that one of the recommendations for keeping children safe is to have good ventilation and therefore as detailed in our risk assessment we will continue to air rooms regularly and ensure that there is a good through flow of air. We kindly ask that children are dressed warmly with an extra layer/hoodie to ensure that they are warm throughout the day. Many thanks.

Catering

For the first week back we will be unable to provide hot meals for the children as our catering services will not resume until March the 1st. Please send your child to school with a lunchbox for the first week. As usual, lunch time will be taken in the classrooms.

Keeping Children Safe

In terms of health and safety we will continue to follow the well established protocols to which we were adhering to, prior to lockdown. Don't forget that children will remain in their bubbles and pupils **will not** have opportunities to mix across bubbles throughout the day. We will also continue to segregate yards to ensure that bubbles remain separate whilst pupils have opportunities for play. We will also continue to promote good hand hygiene with all children.

When giving consideration to the mixing of bubbles, we are also committed to try to minimise the movement of staff wherever possible, as staff movement can also potentially increase transmission routes for the virus. Therefore, we have had to make some adjustments to staffing for the next few weeks, to ensure that we minimise the movement of staff around the school.

I know that as a community we are committed to trying to reduce the transmission of the virus within our locality. Can I please give a quick reminder that we require face coverings to be worn on site and we also kindly ask that all parents adhere to good social distancing protocols when on site. If you work in Education and are familiar with the new guidance you will be aware that the guidance for school staff on face coverings has been strengthened, and therefore you will notice that staff will be wearing face coverings not only in communal school areas but also in classrooms throughout the day.

Don't forget, should your child have a positive coronavirus test whilst in school please contact us as soon as possible, via See-Saw, e-mail or telephone in order that we can start self isolation procedures immediately, and where possible limit any potential transmission. Additionally, please can I give you a quick reminder that any pupils who are unwell should be kept home from school, in order for us to keep our community safe. Many thanks.

Session Times

As our Foundation Phase department is now fully open we now need to revert to our staggered times to ensure that we are able to control the numbers of adults on our site at any one time. Therefore, please be reminded that our Foundation Phase doors open at 9.10 and close at 2.50. Our Hub class doors open at 8.50 and close at 3.10. Once again, can I urge you to leave our site as soon as you have picked up/dropped off your child in order to keep our site as safe and as decongested as possible.

Hub Provision.

Now that our Foundation Phase staff are back full time, we have had to make some changes to our hub provision. From the Week beginning 22nd February, our Key Stage 2 teachers will also be teaching in hub classrooms. I am sure that you will understand that if teachers are teaching in hub classrooms they may not be readily available to respond to blended learning submissions. Currently teachers are scheduled to work in the hub one day a week. Teachers will let you know when they are working in the hub so that you can be aware that they may be unable to respond quickly to see-saw messages. Many thanks for your understanding.

Once again can I thank you for your patience and understanding and thank all of you who continue to work with us to do the best for all of our children in these difficult times. We very much look forward to seeing our youngest pupils after half term and for our Key Stage 2 pupils we are still at the end of a telephone or e-mail.

Many thanks

Mrs Arthur and Staff